

THE PULSE

CHRISTMAS ISSUE—1942



A Merry Christmas

THE PULSE

of the Employees of
THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL
68th to 71st Sts., York Ave. to East River

Editorial Staff:
THEODORE F. CHILDS
A. GARMAN DINGWALL
WINIFRED OLIVER
ALICE IVISON
HOWARD TURNER
C. FRED RAMSEY, JR.

Publisher:
LEONARD McHUGH

A WORD TO BE REMEMBERED

In England, for the first time in two years, the church bells have rung out our first great victory, carrying their message of gratitude far and wide for all to hear. It seems fitting for us, at this season particularly, to remember that our bells have never been silenced.

For many of us, the past year has added a deeper meaning to the word "sorrow", a truer meaning to the word "joy" and a more sincere meaning to the word "service."

Although few of us have escaped sacrifice in some form or other, we should remember one word—gratitude; a word that should be moulded from the depth, the truth, the sincerity of our sorrow, our joy and our service.

Gratitude that our civilian population is not in terror of being mowed down from the air, our countryside laid to waste; gratitude that there are institutions such as this New York Hospital, where our job, no matter how big or how small, adds its share to taking care of thousands of needy sick; gratitude that we are able to make our contribution to mankind by giving our best in that job; gratitude that we are a free people.

With this realization in our hearts, our church bells will indeed ring out to each and every person in our vast country, the true message of this Christmas season.

DR. HANSSON BROADCASTS

Following a number of newspaper descriptions of Sister Kenny's treatment of infantile paralysis, Dr. K. G. Hansson, director of physical therapy at this hospital was interviewed by Miss Arlene Francis over station WEAf on October thirtieth.

Dr. Hansson stated that several institutions in this city are still investigating this method, and also conducting courses for physicians, physiotherapists and nurses. He mentioned that patients are more comfortable, happy and healthy from this treatment. He added that—thus far there have been no adverse effects from the early treatments and substantially fewer deformities exist as far as present observations have gone.

ON THE HOME FRONT

As we enter our second year of wartime service in World War II, the New York Hospital can be proud that it has continued its never-ceasing responsibility to the government and to the civilian population of this district. New and challenging war services have been added to the list of its ever-increasing responsibilities. Founded in 1771, the New York Hospital has played its part in the War of the Revolution and in all the wars of our country since that time.

A notable thing about this fact of continued service begins to emerge pretty clearly when we look at the debit side of our Personnel ledger for this year's operation. Since Pearl Harbor, the hospital has contributed directly or indirectly, around 200 doctors and 100 nurses to the armed forces. Also the past year has witnessed an extraordinary drawing away of personnel from the vital service departments of the hospital; many have been called to war in the Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard, and many more have accepted jobs in defense industries.

In the face of these shortages the New York Hospital has continued to serve the public efficiently and adapted its program to national and civic needs. It has recently been stressed by countless official sources that the maintenance of home front services plays a desperately vital part in any war effort. Our soldiers morale is affected by what is happening at home and what is happening to their families who remain behind. Ill health, epidemics or catastrophes on the home front can cause untold disaster in interruption of vital service of all sorts.

The responsibility, then, of an institution such as the New York Hospital in wartime is an extremely serious ones, and a continued burden has been thrust upon all who have helped to maintain it in recent months. It is little short of magic that this institution has continued to function in the face of added burdens on the one hand, and of subtracted personnel and matériel on the other.

How has it been possible to continue? The answer lies in an increasing awareness on the part of all who contribute their daily work to the hospital of the seriousness of wartime services we are performing. The every day contribution of everyone (and this means everyone from sub sub-basement to the top of our highest towers) who works here has been of invaluable importance in the maintenance of all departments. Many who have remained with us have done so out of a realization of the necessity for maintaining services which they know should not be impaired, and through a feeling of gratitude to an institution that has carried on through prior wars; through good times and bad. Many of our workers are in a sense volunteers. They have balanced the kind of service they could perform here against what they could do elsewhere, and have decided that the war-time service they can contribute here in the New York Hospital is as serious

(Continued on Page 5)

CHEMOTHERAPY

At the New York Hospital the glass door panel of Room F-732 bears the imposing expression "Chemotherapy." To the layman the title alone has mysterious implications. Some years ago this particular type of therapy aroused the interest of the profession when its potentialities became apparent. As a result, in our building F-732 became the address of an intensive clinical study concerning the sulfa-compounds.

The family of drugs considered during various stages of this research includes: sulfanilamide, sulfapyridine, sulfathiazole, sulfadiazine, and sodium sulfadiazine. The investigation is being conducted under the direction of a staff of 3 doctors and a number of technical assistants and aides.

Currently the study is concerning itself with a comparison of certain of the clinical and pharmacologic values of sulfadiazine. From "Annals of Internal Medicine" February 1942, in an article by Charles Wheeler, M.D. and Norman Plummer, M.D. we quote, "Toxic reactions after sulfadiazine treatment were less frequent and less serious than after the use of other sulfonamide drugs. This, together with the high concentration of free drug obtainable in the blood, suggests that pharmacologically sulfadiazine and sodium sulfadiazine possess definite advantages over the other sulfonamide drugs in general use." This conclusion was determined after 218 patients had received the drugs over long periods of time. Now over 2,000 patients have received sulfadiazine and the toxic effects have been correlated with the pharmacological data available. Pneumonia, acute bronchitis, chronic bronchiectasis, chronic lung abscess, and subacute bacterial endocarditis together with many surgical cases make up the majority of the included patients.

And so, Chemotherapy continues its very vital inquiry for still more facts concerning the sulfa "Miracle" group of chalk-white tablets, to relieve sufferers of still more diseases.

THE CORNELL CORNER

Jacques Saphier, Lieutenant, j.g., U.S.N.R., honor man of the Cornell University Medical College Class of 1940, is the first alumnus known to have died in action in the present war. With proud sorrow, the report comes to us that Lieutenant Saphier gave his life for his country during the invasion of the Solomon Islands, according to a Navy Department information. While at the Medical College he won the Thorne Shaw Scholarship in his third year, and on graduation received the Jahn Metcalfe Polk Prize symbolizing highest honors for his class. At the time he received his naval commission last March he was an assistant resident at Bellevue, having previously interned at New York Hospital. After a training period at Portsmouth, N. H. and New River, N. C., he was assigned to the Marines and left on June 8 for the South Pacific. Lieutenant Saphier is survived by his parents who live in Brooklyn.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY OF THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL

At the meeting of the Board of Governors on December 1st, Langdon P. Marvin was elected President of The Society of The New York Hospital, succeeding Captain William Harding Jackson of the Army Air Forces, now in active service. G. Beekman Hoppin was elected Vice-President and Henry S. Sturgis and Augustine J. Smith were re-elected Treasurer and Secretary respectively. James W. Husted, a member of the firm of Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam and Roberts was elected to the Board of Governors.

The resignations from the Board of R. Horace Gallatin and Paul G. Pennayer were accepted with sincere regret.

Secretary of the Board of Governors, Mr. Augustine J. Smith has served faithfully with the New York Hospital Board for forty years.

NEW TREATMENT OF BURNS AND SUPERFICIAL WOUNDS

Those who saw the recent publicity in the news papers about the development of Sulfa Film for the treatment of superficial wounds will be interested to know that a similar preparation had been devised quite independently by members of the Surgical Department of the New York Hospital, in association with chemists from the Wallace and Tiernan Co. The preparation consists of a film which looks very much like rather thick cellophane but which is really a combination of sulfanilamide with certain salts and a soluble cellophane-like material. When applied to a wound or a weeping surface such as a burn, this membrane forms an air-tight dressing which gradually dissolves and gives off sulfanilamide. It has already been shown to be most effective in the treatment of burns in this hospital and in other clinics and army camps where it has been used. It relieves the pain of burns almost instantly and brings about healing more rapidly than any other method which has been tried to date.

Through the interest of the Liaison Officer from the British Medical Corps to the United States Army supplies of this material have been sent to the War Office in London and to the Medical Corps of the Eighth Army in Africa.

A striking advantage of the material is that it requires no sterile technique to apply and the dressings can be put on by anyone acquainted with first aid. It should prove particularly advantageous on ship board where medical attention is restricted and where, due to shell explosions, large numbers of superficial burns may be caused in a very short time. These burns, if not treated promptly, may prove highly fatal due to shock, and it was the hope of providing a simple method that led to the development of this material which could be kept at the action stations and easily applied by any gunner's mate.

CHRISTMAS — 1942

The meaning of Christmas is clearer, more significant this year than ever before because people are fighting all over the world to preserve the things that this Day stands for. Those of us who must remain at home have an important part to play in this conflict. It is for us to make sure that the spirit of the Season that is dedicated to peace and friendliness and kindly human relationships is kept alive in spite of what is happening all around us.

The New York Hospital has always held a prominent place in the community life of this City. Its personnel and its facilities have been available whenever emergency service was needed. It is now busily engaged in preparing young men and women to go out and take their places as doctors and nurses in the field, in training volunteers to carry on the work of those who have already gone into active service and in guarding the health and the morale of all who come to us for help. This year our Christmas contributions take the form of services rendered. We have been able to continue these services only because the many friends of the Hospital have given so generously of their time and efforts.

We send our Holiday Greetings to all who are working here with us and to those others who are carrying the New York Hospital spirit and fine traditions to all parts of the world. Together we can face the future not only without fear, but with perfect faith that the Christmas Days to come will bring with them a peace that is everlasting.

GEORGE W. WHEELER, M.D.

Superintendent

THE CONTROL CENTER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

The New York Hospital has extended its responsibility in the Emergency Medical Service by accepting the supervision of the medical care during an air raid for the Mid Manhattan district. The central control has been divided into districts and The New York Hospital covers the area from 42nd Street to 86th Street from the Hudson River to the East River and a section north of 86th Street on the East Side. In especially constructed quarters on L 3 have been placed a battery of telephones for receiving and dispatching orders. Reports are received from the wardens through the Police Control Centers. The incidents are plotted on maps and medical teams from the nearest hospital to the catastrophe are dispatched by order from the District Hospital Control center. Thirteen hospitals fully prepared to carry out emergency service are located within this district. They represent over 40 teams of doctors, nurses, and auxiliary workers with at least 20 ambulances available for transportation.

Moreover, an elaborate system has been devised so that the control center is aware of hospital facilities throughout the district. The number of vacant beds plus the ability of each hospital to accept casualties is reported by the Casualty Hospitals, so that the Center is able to direct the flow of patients to hospitals able to care for them. Moreover, the

facilities of the Red Cross and other organizations are at the disposal of the Center.

The Control Center requires a staff of 16 persons in order to operate efficiently. The personnel engaged in this work has been recruited from the student nurses and medical students residing within the buildings. They have already demonstrated their ability to handle the situation in the numerous tests which have been held in this district. They are subject to call when an air-raid alert is received by the hospital. During the interval between the alert and the actual raid, the center is most busy checking the facilities and placing each of its hospitals on the alert and ready to carry out its orders. Both the staff of the Control Center and The Hospital are proud to be privileged to take such an essential and active part in the Civilian Defense of New York City.

J. B. PASTORE, M.D.

Director of Wartime Activities

Report has it that the Students Residence, formerly known as the New York Hospital Nurses Annex, has become a very popular abode. At the moment there is a sizeable waiting list and all indications are that occupancy will reach 100% with the incoming class on April 1. Upon consideration of the thought that the capacity of the Students Residence is 174 rooms, we feel that its renting agents have performed handsomely.

NEWS FROM THE BOYS

During the past months many letters have been received from former New York Hospital employees who are now in the armed forces. The letters have come from all parts of the country and from many branches of the service. Some of the more interesting comments are repeated in the following excerpts:

Report from Miami:

"Monday was more or less a day of leisure: Up at five, breakfast and then a day of housecleaning. Because we live in hotels, they are overenthusiastic about the cleanliness of the rooms. So I swept, mopped and dusted until the sweat ran as freely as the rain during a cloudburst. When the corporal inspected the room he said very sweetly, 'Come on, boys. You can do better than that—much better.' So we started all over again. Did you ever try mopping, dusting, etc., in the dark of night? I'll be able to mop up any number of Japs after this."

Report from Burlington:

"Getting up in the morning isn't difficult any more and it wouldn't be for you either if you had someone blow a whistle in your ear, switch on the lights, and give you a violent shake, not to mention the noise of 40 other men getting up."

Report from Atlanta:

"I am with a Coast Artillery Anti-Aircraft Battalion. It is our job to protect air fields and bases and we are connected with the Air Force. Our motto is 'Keep Shooting 'Em Down.'"

Report from Boston:

"My free time has been rationed since my furlough. Only a housewife can understand my problems; laundry to be done, darning, housecleaning, etc."

Keep up the good work and continue writing the boys as frequently as possible as letters mean much to them.

(Continued from Page 2)

a duty as can be found anywhere. This is also true of many of our doctors who now give more than a full measure of their time in order that their departments of the hospital may continue to function as before.

It seems especially appropriate, therefore, that at this Christmas Season a heart-felt appreciation should be voiced to all employees for their war-time service. Our coordinated effort will carry on in the "Will to Win".

BUILDING SERVICE — Things & Stuff

On or about May 26, Mrs. Anna Cheslock received a telegram from Chicago, the next thing we knew Mrs. Anna Cheslock was absent a few days. Then two days later a telegram received by the Department read—Mrs. Anna Cheslock now Mrs. William Buffin—all happened in Chicago. Mr. Buffin is a Sergeant in the U. S. Army. Here's wishing them the best

Now the by-word in F-0071, "I received a letter from Dick today (everyday)."

HOSPI-TALES

THRU THE PEEP HOLE

We publicly voice our admiration for that splendid corps of volunteer war workers, the Nurses Aides. They are not only most helpful with floor routines but furnish additional comfort and cheer to our patients.

And we have not overlooked the efforts of the Volunteer Department. Blessed be those women who unselfishly give their time to the various departments of the hospital. We spotted comely Miss Sunnie O'Dea from the cast of, "LET'S FACE IT", happy with her hospital chores despite shows and rehearsals.

Grave, dignified, neat and with his usual seriousness, Lawrence Gauli, electrician extraordinary efficiently ministers to the many appliances of this institution.

At the switchboard we find that Carmen Belosi has an eighteen year record. Wanda Albbus, fifteen years. In the laundry Sewing room, Mr. Kenny proudly points to Mrs. Ferrari with twenty-one years of service.

The manner in which our medical students consume the home-made ice cream in the cafeterias certainly proves its excellence. Wager there is a case of allergy for this food in the college.

Christmas spirit again surrounds the Gift Shop. A wide variety of pretty things at very reasonable prices and pleasant Pat McSherry should serve as an incentive for us all to patronize this local bazaar.

From the Record Department comes word that a daughter was born to Gertrude Egenolf Moncado, and a son to Mary Ronson. Also, Cupid ensnared Madeleine Dillman, Sophie Sokorsky and Ann Vigniano. A small donation from the Record Room to our Social Service Department will be made in place of the annual Xmas Tea.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. Bowers is eagerly anticipating an Xmas visit to his home in Maryland.

Matrimony has claimed three of our Assistant Resident Surgeons: Dr. James A. Dingwall, Dr. Charles S. Jones, Dr. Donald Morrison.

Another young miss will henceforth grace the Theodore F. Childs household. Our greetings to the new baby.

'Twas good to see the familiar faces of Major Dan Tucker, Lieutenant R. L. Malloy and Private Ronald Busse, visitors to the hospital. More from the Service are expected here during the holidays.

DRAW SHADES WHEN LIGHTS ARE ON

The former Miss Grace Coates, now Mrs. Kurtz, is back on F-11 semi-private pavilion as head nurse, the post she held prior to her marriage a short while ago.

Following a prolonged absence, Dr. William DeW Andrus has returned to the fold healthy and robust, eager to carry on with the additional burdens placed upon him as a result of the present war crisis.

Dr. A. A. Marchetti is the new pathologist in the Woman's Clinic. Dr. Herbert Traut resigned in order to accept a Professorship at the University of California.

A pleasant trip to Cape Cod the 4-day weekend Thanksgiving by Miss Stanley we hear Cape Cod food is delicious and fishing.

Luella Molito of General Stores will leave January 7 for a new position in Surgical Follow-up Department.

The best of luck and happiness to Mrs. Anna Keveloff on her appointment as Housekeeper of Nurses' Residence, December 11, 1942.

Welcome to Building Service Department—Mrs. Birch from Nutrition Department. One of the Vocas of Building Service on Extension 338.

What pretty lisle is no longer seen in the doctor's coat room?

Frank Kral, our head receiving clerk is eligible for a government position for the duration, until January.

Max Connelly Benton from the Woman's Clinic is anticipating a happy Christmas on the plane to go to Dedham, Massachusetts, to be with his family.

The New York Hospital unit (the Ninth General Hospital) will be headquartered at Fort Andrews, Boston, but they temporarily divided with some of its officers and enlisted men training at Fort Greard and Fort Miley, Massachusetts, and others at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D. C. Some of the doctors, nurses and enlisted men have been in town recently and have visited friends at the hospital. It is always a pleasure to have them drop in. Among those who were here a short time ago were Major Frank Glenn, Major C. Holman, Major Dan Tucker, Captain S. Wolf, Captain A. (Morgan) Firth, Lt. Col. Malley, Surgeon Lt. Pauline Murphy, Second Lt. Elmer Greenwood, P. F. C. Howard Eick and P. F. C. Donald Breen.

Dr. Lucy M. Crawford grimly stated that the accident pavilion is beginning to show signs of holiday depression after which they usually become swamped with admissions.

Dr. and Mrs. Arthur V. Greeley happily announce the birth of a baby girl, born in the New York Hospital on December 13th. Dr. Greeley is on the attending staff of the Woman's Clinic.

Major and Mrs. Cranston W. Holman are the proud parents of a baby girl born in Pasadena, California, in December.

Fishing very good at the Fire boat station, 93rd Street and East River. Quote Mr. Stehlik and Bill Zabel—that must be why the boys are late every Sunday for dinner.

Muncy Dill was born to Lieut. (J. G.) and Mrs. Leslie V. Dill, at the New York Hospital on November 29th. Lieut. Dill was formerly with the house staff of the Woman's Clinic.

Attention of our new employees is called to the rest and recreation facilities in the rooms at the north end of L-3.

NURSES NOTES

Up to this writing, the New York Hospital Nurses who left with our hospital unit are still located at Camp Devens, contrary to the popular conception that these individuals are idly bidding their time pending their departure elsewhere, a reliable source informs us that they are so busy on duty at the station hospital there, that it is impossible to get the group together to have a picture taken, despite numerous requests from home.

The annual class of student nurses who entered school on last September 28 (has an enrollment of 77 future nurses. This is the largest class ever enrolled in our nursing school).

With the nursing school's first winter class graduation week the hospital moved to 68th Street, the School of Nursing hopes to take on an additional class as of February 15. Definite plans for this endeavor are now being formulated. It is to be hoped that the authorities will be able to carry through this contribution to nursing personnel which in times like these runs far behind the required number.

This column has been asked to acknowledge publicly and thank the Volunteer Nurses Aides for the irreplaceable service they have rendered in the conduct of the nursing service of the New York Hospital.

LIGHTS OUT WHEN LEAVING ROOM